

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 and 27-62 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-3, 14, 27-55 and 60-62 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner (to remove the word "a" before the word "means"). Claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 17 and 18 have also been amended because they included the phrase "a means".

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 24 and 25 are rejected under U.S. C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

The phrase "the virtual node" is not recited in line 23 of Claim 1, but it is recited in line 25 of Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to replace this phrase with "a virtual node".

Claim 1 has been amended based on FIG. 24 and page 55, fourth paragraph to page 56, first paragraph of the specification.

Claims 27, 36 and 38 have been amended in a manner similar to that of Claim 1. Claim 47 has also been amended because Claim 47 includes similar recitations as those of Claims 27, 36 and 38.

It appears to Applicant that the Examiner intended to point out Claim 47 rather than Claim 49. However, Claim 49 has been amended based on the 24th embodiment of the present application (page 57, line 9 to page 60, line 14 of the specification).

Claim 52 has been amended based on the 36th embodiment of the present application (page 76, line 13 to page 78, line 15 of the specification).

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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